

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 03222 231101Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 MMO-01 PM-05 /043 W
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P 231053Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7533
INFO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T TAIPEI 03222

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, TW
SUBJECT: SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR FURTHER REDUCTIONS
OF DOD PERSONNEL ON TAIWAN

1. HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY TDC THAT JCS HAS DIRECTED RE-
DUCTION OF DOD MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ON
TAIWAN BY OCTOBER 1, 1978. REQUEST CLEARANCE OR
REVISION FOLLOWING Q AND A FOR MISSION USE ONLY IF
SUBJECT RAISED BY PRESS. (WE ARE WORKING WITH TDC TO
TRY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH WOULD
AROUSE PRESS INTEREST. WE ARE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS
TO AVOID ADDING THIS ISSUE AT THIS TIME WHEN BRZEZINSKI
VISIT AND ITS COINCIDENCE WITH CCK INAUGURATION AS
WELL AS ICA BRANCH OFFICE CLOSURES VERY MUCH IN
PUBLIC'S MIND.) IF, IN A MONTH OR SO, PUBLIC BECOMES
AWARE THAT WE ARE CONTINUING REDUCTIONS, WE DOUBT
THEY WILL ATTRACT MUCH ATTENTION.

--QUESTION 1. HAS U.S. DECIDED TO REDUCE TROOP
LEVEL ON TAIWAN?

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--ANSWER: REDUCTIONS OF DOD CIVILIAN AND MILITARY
PERSONNEL ARE CONTINUING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SHANGHAI
COMMUNIQUE (READ PERTINENT PASSAGE) AND OUR MANY
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT OVER PAST SEVERAL
YEARS.

--QUESTION 2. WHAT IS REASON FOR REDUCTION?

--ANSWER: IT INVOLVES MANPOWER AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

--QUESTION 3. YOU'RE IMPLYING THAT TENSIONS ARE DIMINISHING BUT VARIOUS MAINLAND LEADERS HAVE RECENTLY REAFFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO USE FORCE AGAINST TAIWAN IF NECESSARY. HOW DO YOU RECONCILE THIS?

--ANSWER: TENSIONS IN THE AREA HAVE DECREASED CONSIDERABLY AS A RESULT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, OF IMPROVED US-PRC RELATIONS.

--QUESTION 4. HOW MANY TROOPS ARE LEFT HERE?

--ANSWER: (SUGGEST CITE ROUNDED-OFF FIGURE BASED ON UNCLASSIFIED MONTHLY POPULATION REPORT WHICH EMBASSY CABLES DEPARTMENT RATHER THAN THE BOTTOM-LINE OCTOBER GOAL. THIS WILL EMPHASIZE THE CONTINUING NATURE OF THE REDUCTIONS.)

--QUESTION 5. WHAT SPECIFIC UNITS ARE BEING WITHDRAWN AND WHAT IS PERCENTAGE OF CUTS FOR REMAINING UNITS?

--ANSWER: WE DO NOT COMMENT ON SPECIFIC FIGURES CONCERNING MOVEMENTS OF U.S. MILITARY UNITS.

--QUESTION 6. I UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE TROOP REDUCTIONS IN PACIFIC REGION.

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--ANSWER: SUCH REPORTS HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS HERE AND EACH TIME WE HAVE REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE WITHDRAWALS OF DOD MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL FROM TAIWAN. (CANNON NOVEMBER 17 PRESS CONFERENCE.)

--QUESTION 7. IS THIS ACTION BEING CARRIED OUT AS RESULT OF PRC PRESSURES OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING?

--ANSWER: NO. DISPOSITION OF U.S. FORCES IN EAST ASIA, INCLUDING TAIWAN, IS DETERMINED BY USG IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, POLICY INTERESTS AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

--QUESTION 8. WILL THIS ACTION AFFECT U.S. COMMITMENTS TO TAIWAN UNDER MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY?

--ANSWER: NO.

--QUESTION 9. HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE SAVED BY THESE CUTS?

--ANSWER: I DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION.

--QUESTION 10. DOES THE REDUCTION HAVE ANYTHING TO DO
WITH NORMALIZATION?

--ANSWER: IT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SHANGHAI COM-
MUNIQUE.

2. ABOVE FOR USE BY TDC PIO AND EMBASSY SPOKESMAN ON
AN "IF ASKED" BASIS. UNGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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